

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CDXA Makes Big Splash in ARRL Ten Meter Contest

By Dick Williams, W3OA

Last year 28 clubs entered the Medium Category of the ARRL Ten Meter Contest Club Competition and CDXA came in 27th of those 28. CDXA decided to promote the contest by encouraging members to participate and offering some nice prizes. And that really worked. In 2009 CDXA had five entries with a final score total of 14,050 points. In 2010 we had 21 entries with a claimed score total of 1,354,908 points. While comparing claimed and final scores is like comparing apples and oranges, it's still obvious we made a tremendous improvement over last year.

Continuing to compare apples and oranges, the Frankford Radio Club won the 2009 Medium Category competition with 1,160,678 points. That's 14 percent lower than our 2010 claimed score. So we can be confident CDXA will be very high in the final rankings for 2010.

The four prizes we offered were each forty dollars worth of Outback Steak House gift cards. Three prizes were for the three top scoring entries and one prize was to be raffled off among remaining entries that made 25 or more contest QSOs. The high scoring winners were announced and the raffle was

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

held at the CDXA Wednesday Lunch on December 22. Here are the results:

First Place – N2TU, 267,972 points
 Second Place – K4LY, 234,818 points
 Third Place – W3GQ, 192,874 points
 Raffle Winner – K2SX

All the CDXA scores are shown on the CDXA Web site at http://cdxa.org/contest_arrrl_10m_2010.shtml.

Below are soapbox comments (edited) I received from CDXA members after the Ten Meter contest:

K2SD: My first time working this contest in years—had fun!

K2SX: Decided not to use Skimmer since that meant I would have to go Mixed Mode and you know how much I love doing SSB. So I ended up going SO(HP) CW. Ended up with 287 QSOs, 49 sections + 21 countries for 80,360 in 12 hours. Worked three Fs and one ON on Sat morning but that was it for EU. The rain and wind raised havoc with my open wire doublet. Could not get the SWR down so ended up most of the time with just 300-400 watts out.

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

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Only worked one NC and no AL or KY. Did hear AA4V and W4MEL on quite a lot.

K4LY: Every kind of propagation, and mostly white noise at times. First time I ever entered a contest multi-op - me, myself, and I. Reason - I wanted to see what the CDXA Skimmer was like and get max score for the club. Very interesting, but not much advantage on a single band contest, is it? Also, the Skimmer had beaucoup CW spots, but seemed to reduce the regular SSB spots for some reason. The other thing that made this contest interesting is that I put up a new 10M antenna on Friday, an H-double bay with the top at about 55' compared to my little tri-bander at 70'. The H-double bay is a fine antenna, bi-directional with a beamwidth of about 120 degrees in both directions and only about 3 db down from my tribander when the two maximum beamwidths are aligned. I made well over half the contacts on the H-double bay and could have worked just about anything on it. Rig was my trusty old TS-850. Used N1MM. Never did hook up my SDR-1000, but want to try that instead of Skimmer and spots—which make for a very different type of operating. Should have hooked up a voice keyer. About 90% S & P. Thanks for the Q's, especially those few from Europe, Africa, and Oceania. It was great to have the Mexican states as mults.

K5EK: A lot of effort with minimal results—very funny propagation. I hope others did much better than I did.

KI4TZ: Well at least I got WAC (worked all Charlotte), not on much, gone most of Saturday, very sporadic band but at least more Q's on 10m than I remember in a while on a weekend though not much DX. Did

manage an EU, some AF, ZL and KH6.

KZ2I: Wish this contest wasn't right smack dab in the middle of holidays. I had limited time and Cec never did get on.

N1GC: Total of 6hr 11min according to N1MM. I had a problem with the program logging XE3N, and gave up in disgust Saturday afternoon. After sleeping on it, and using Sue's computer, I managed to get it running after reinstalling V10.11.2 and deleting 10.12.1(?). Next year I might try mixed mode, me CW? I must be kidding.

N4PQX: I had no prop to XE when I was sporadically on. Saw spots but couldn't hear them, antenna likely too high. Saw the message about the N1MM issues with the band map so glad it's a code issue. I've had nothing but problems with N1MM since using the TS480 and thought it may be something there, but now it may just be bugs in the code. Had to restart N1MM several times to get it communicating with the rig real time (it would work fine for a while, then be like a 30 second delay when changing the VFO, restart N1MM always fixed it). Hopefully he will have a better version out soon.

W4WNT: I worked a few from Chris Price's QTH under the WW4CP call, but then worked a few under my call (without working him, so I can submit a separate log). I was very impressed with his Flex 3000—it may turn out to be a very expensive visit to his place!!

New CDXA Officers for 2011

New CDXA officers for 2011 were elected at the Annual Meeting/Christmas Party held on December 9, 2010. After ably serving as Vice President for the years 2008-2010, Paul Ponak stepped down. All other incumbent officers stood for reelection. The officers elected for 2011 are:

President:	Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF
Vice President	Bill Fisher, W4GRW
Secretary/Treasurer	Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
Newsletter Editor	John Scott, K8YC
Contest Manager	Dick Williams, W3OA
Cluster Manager	Joe Simpkins, K4MD
Cluster Manager/North	Paul Sturpe, W3GQ
Webmaster	Wayne Setzer, WB4BXW

The Pileup

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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

2010 CQWW CWAC Wrap UP

By Dick Williams, W3OA

The total of our claimed 2010 CQWW scores was 34.3 million points. This is a great improvement over the 2009 total of 29.2 million points. Our members who went on DXpeditions accounted for a large portion of our score. AA4V and N4SF were the two operators at AA4V/VP9 in the phone contest so CDXA claimed credit for their entire score of 4.7 million points. And K2SX was one of the eight operators at CR3L in the CW contest so we claimed credit for one eighth of that operations 27.8 million points, which is 3.4 million points.

CDXA again fielded entries in both the CW and phone five-man team competitions.

Our phone team – KI4TZ, KZ2I, N4PQX, W3GQ, and W3OA scored 5,884,000 points.

Our CW team – IS0/K7QB, N2TU, N4ZC, W3GQ, and W3OA scored 11,850,000 points.

CDXA members competed for first place Contest Within A Contest (CWAC) awards in six categories. Each winner got his choice of a trophy or a fifty-dollar gift card for Outback Steak House. The winners were:

Top Combined Score – N4ZC, 3,999,000 points

Top Phone Score – K3XC, 1,459,000 points

Top Phone Score, Low Power – K4LY, 1,450,000 points

Top CW Score – N2TU, 2,406,000 points

Top CW Score, Low Power – W3ZL, 224,000 points

Top DXpedition Score – AA4V/VP9, 4,763,000 points

Members who completed 1000 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a trophy or a twenty-five-dollar gift card for Outback Steak House. These winners were:

IS0/K7QB (not eligible for a gift card or trophy, did receive a certificate)

K2SX

KZ2I

W3GQ

N4PQX

N4SF

W3OA

W7DO

Members who completed 500 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a certificate and a CDXA patch. There were three winners:

K2SD

K5EK

KI4TZ

Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a CDXA patch. There were five winners here:

K4DXA

KU4V

W4ZV

WB4ROA

WW4CP

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Here are soapbox comments (edited) I received from CDXA members after the CW contest:

AA4V: I managed to get in 9 hours at odd hours throughout the week-end. Conditions seemed very good on all bands with some good propagation to AF and SA on 10 meters. I succeeded in repairing my Titanex vertical for 160 and 80 after losing the top third last winter. I felt that the verticals for 160, 80 and 40 were working very well over salt water ground. Kudos to ZL8X for great ears on 80. Pennant antennas were used on all low bands. High bands were covered by a 3 el SteppIR yagi at 60 feet. The Elecraft K3, ACOM 2000A and N1MM worked seamlessly. The ACOM amp really does a great job handling SWR above 2:1 on excursions around the bands chasing multipliers.

K2SX: CR3L was a great effort. Internet was not too reliable on Madeira so did not try Skimmer. We did use a new MO2R system that I am writing a story about which was quite interesting. Two ops use two radios and listen to the same pileup. Usually each radio had a separate antenna, one pointed to EU and one pointed to NA. Each op would pick out a call—hopefully different ones. The first one to get the call entered and sent would capture the frequency. The other op would leave the second call on his computer screen. When the first op confirmed his exchange he would send the second call and the exchange without going to a QRZ. It worked well most of the time.

K4LY: Bronchitis prevented my usual low power or QRP all band effort. I should have raised my inverted L top to 90' before the contest but was too weak. It was at 64' until Saturday afternoon when I struggled on top of the 66' tower to get it up to 80' using a bamboo pole. I got a report of a bad signal Saturday night and took time out to monitor with my K2 and see what was happening. Dropped power from 900 to 750 watts and signal seemed OK. On Sunday, I redid all my ground connections indoors and out, replaced some coax jumpers, and added toroids to the 13V power line to TS-850 and the CW keying line, but not sure if that solved the problem. Frustration! Life is too short for high power! I was surprised to work so many countries and zones with my modest setup and limited operating time. As usual, 99% S+P.

K8YC: I did not get to operate too much in this contest. However, I was more disappointed than ever to find what seemed to be the worst behavior by operators in a CW contest in recent memory. Perhaps this was due to operators new to contesting, but I ran across many more occurrences of operators calling repetitively without listening to the called station which clearly identified who he wanted to work. In a few cases, this persistent calling was as bad as that I hear from SSB operators trying to work a rare DXpedition site. Strangely, these ops must not realize that everyone's rate will go down with such behavior.

KZ2I: Hectic weekend so not much activity in the contest. Surprisingly, I did manage to work 3 new band countries though. Got OY and ZA on 80, PJ4 on 160. That PJ4 was the last band country for the 4 new PJs 9 bands 160-10. Now if I can just find them on 6M!

N4PQX: Spare time S&P only, tried to maximize mults. Saturday conditions poor on the higher bands. Low bands seemed good. Sunday conditions on high bands better but "murphy" visited again as the L7 poofed the power supply after lunch, low power only after that. Added CW & SSB filters to the TS480 after the phone contest, which made a major difference in the CW contest with the new filters, so at least the backup rig worked well.

N4ZC: I must say this was one of the most fun contests for me in a long time. If there were red or green stations (N1MM's identity scheme—Ed.) to work, I didn't go after the blue. It really brought out the DXer in me. I think this might well be the best mult score I ever had. But. . . Qs are the name of the game if you want to win a contest. When I went to bed Saturday night, I was sure this would be another year with my 160m score beating my 10m score. One hundred sixty meters had been pretty good for me and after the poor Saturday on 10m I wouldn't have believed it possible to pick up the 10 meter countries I got Sunday to have a bigger 10m score. This is the first contest I can remember that I never had that, 'God I'm tired, why am I doing this? Is this really fun?' feeling at times. I got 3 hours sleep each night and never had that, 'Oh if I could just take a short nap' feeling. Joyce said she'd never seen me so upbeat through a whole contest.

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W4WNT: Luckily I had a Windom antenna ready to go up here in Weddington. When I took down my G5RV to look at it, it fell apart! After some length adjustments the Windom worked well.

W4ZV: Thanksgiving weekend is usually problematic for me. Last year my daughter was visiting and November 27 is my Wedding Anniversary (I know...what was I thinking?) This year my daughter came a week earlier and my XYL gave me the OK to spend our Anniversary day in the contest so I began to consider which of two extremes to enter. After hearing a nice 10m opening to Europe in mid-October, I seriously thought about it, but with solar flux about 80, I decided to hold out until it hits 100 (a good decision in retrospect!) and just work 160. Friday night was pure torture (even though it sounded great around sunset) and I was in S&P mode only. Even many EU big guns could not hear me unless nobody else was calling (reminded me of a couple of years ago). Finally around 0700 I was able to run but only for about 20 Qs. Saturday morning was slow but I did manage to work JA7NI, JA3YBK, RA0FF and VK3IO. Surprisingly I heard BU2AQ quite well after my sunrise but no QSO. Saturday night was much better and I was able to run from 0200-0500 (including R9FT in zone 17). I decided to S&P for mults for an hour and then again ran from 0600-0730. Back to very slow S&P but I was encouraged to hear JA1BRK and JA1DV calling PJ2T (who must have had terrible noise). Then a real surprise...I heard UA0SC (zone 18) calling XE2WWW who could not hear Serge. I filed that away in my head, knowing Serge's favorite frequencies were above 1830. Meanwhile I heard KC1XX struggling to get ZL3IX's call. After several unsuccessful attempts XX went back to CQing so I answered him (mainly to let Greg know I was there). Eventually they did make it so I moved up 500 Hz, called CQ and Greg came right back! A bit after 1000 I heard several NE stations madly calling someone on 1833.5. Remembering UA0SC was around, I listened due North and there he was...very weak with the typical long QSB cycle. After most had worked him, Serge sent W4? and was able to hear me. Amazing...zones 17, 18 and 19 in one contest in somewhat disturbed conditions. The rest of the morning was extremely slow except for NH2T and no less than 3 VK6s! The only new JA worked was JQ2VVH answered me just before sunrise. Sunday afternoon is usually frustrating for me. I can hear lots of good stuff but most never hear me. I was listening to K3ZM running around 1810 and GI3OQR answered with a nice signal. I moved up the band a bit, called CQ a few times and bingo! This was especially nice after finding a water weak GI3RQK Sunday morning but too far into daylight absorption to copy well enough to call. The remainder of my time was trying some running using my inverted-V (high angle) which worked surprisingly well. I got a big rush when I thought SU9HP answered me but he was actually calling TC3A who was a few hundred Hz below me. Darn! I worked 26 zones, heard 5 more (21, 24, 34, 39 and 40) and this did not include some usually easy ones if there's activity (1, 36 and 38). Sometime Sunday morning I almost wished I had gone Assisted to go for DXCC in a weekend, as several multiops did. Oh well, it was still great fun and the best I've ever done in this contest.

W7DO: I'm getting the hang of N1MM, but still have to work on basic operating skills. I'm still getting sucked into using incorrect calls from bogus spots and not waiting long enough to verify the correct call, about three of those that I know of.

2011 Calendar

Here are some dates of important activities for CDXA members in 2011. I suggest you put these on your personal calendar now to minimize the chance of scheduling conflicts arising as we go through the year. If you, like me, don't keep your own calendar, please give the dates to your "calendar keeper".

CQ World Wide 160 Meter, CW	Jan 28-30
ARRL DX Contest, CW	Feb 18-20
CQ World Wide 160 Meter, Phone	Feb 25-27
North Carolina QSO Party	Feb 27
ARRL DX Contest, Phone	Mar 4-6

Charlotte Hamfest	Mar 12-13
CDXA Annual Hamfest Banquet	Mar 12
Dayton Hamvention	May 20-22
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	June 11-12
Field Day	June 25-26
CQ World Wide, VHF	July 16-17
Shelby Hamfest	Sept 3-4
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	Sept 10-11
CQ World Wide, RTTY	Sept 23-25
SEDCO/Ten-Tec Hamfest	Sept 23-24
CQ World Wide, Phone	Oct 28-30
CQ World Wide, CW	Nov 25-27
ARRL 160 Meter Contest	Dec 2-4
ARRL 10 Meter Contest	Dec 9-11

Welcome New Members

Two months since the last *Pileup* was published and the creation of family memberships results in a rather long list of new members in January 2011. First, let's identify those new members who are joining another member of their family on the CDXA Roster:

Shelley Pendleton (AE4HD) of Charlotte, NC
Wanda Burton (KF4DDP) of Charlotte, NC
Olivia Smithson (KJ4OTY) of Clover, SC
Barb Scott (KG4QEN) of Cornelius, NC
Sue Colborne (N4SUE) of Stony Point, NC
Beverly Hasson (KJ4EDE) of Gastonia, NC
Rosie Lamb (KA4S) of Maryville, TN
Sheree McKeithan (N4TFA) of Lumberton, NC

One former member returned to active status following an absence. He is **Dirk Tanis (WA4DT)** of Rock Hill, SC. Dirk has been away for a while since your editor couldn't recall seeing Dirk's name on the roster for more than 10 years. He was immediately recognized at a luncheon by those long-time members present

Brian Harrison (KN4R) of Sherrill's Ford, NC joins us as a new member. It looks like Paul Sturpe and some of our newer members from up on the north end of Lake Norman are stirring up the amateur radio community and letting them know about CDXA. **Steve Ellington (N4LQ)** of Charlotte, NC rounds out the list of new members coming on board since early November.

That's eleven new members in two months, and it brings our roster count to about 210 members. Many of the "new" members with family ties are really not new at all. We're familiar with many of them either from attendance at CDXA events, on the CDXA repeater, or, yes, even having worked some of us in VHF contests! To all of you, welcome to the Carolina DX Association.
—The Editor

Win Outback Gift Cards and Trophies in ARRL DX Contest

By Dick Williams, W3OA

The ARRL International DX Contest is just around the corner. The CW contest starts February 18; the phone contest starts March 4. We are again offering great prizes to encourage you to participate and contribute to CDXA's Club Score.

Our scores for the last several years are shown below in Table 1. The last column shows where we ranked among all club entries in the medium category, 50 or fewer entries.

You can see 2010 was a great year for us, returning to third place. We want to do this well or better in 2011!

Year	CDXA Score	CDXA Entries	Rank in Medium Club Category
2000	3,547,737	10	24
2001	2,588,943	9	21
2002	3,407,106	13	20
2003	2,014,479	14	19
2004	6,569,034	31	16
2005	7,619,703	32	14
2006	2,747,289	21	18
2007	7,910,718	30	9
2008	11,293,344	43	3
2009	10,157,613	36	7
2010	22,155,432	46	3

Table 1—Recent CDXA performance in the ARRL DX Contest.

To encourage participation in 2011, we are offering the following prizes:

1st place prizes—Each winner can choose a trophy or a \$50 Outback Steak House Gift Card

- o Top combined CW plus phone score
- o Top CW score
- o Top CW score, low power
- o Top phone score
- o Top phone score, low power
- o Top Multi-op score
- o Top DXpedition score

Other Prizes

- o 1000 or more QSOs total in the CW and phone contests—Each participant can choose a trophy or a \$25 Outback Steak House Gift Card.
- o 500 or more QSOs total in the CW and phone contests—Each participant gets a photo printed CDXA certificate and patch.
- o 250 or more QSOs—Each participant gets a CDXA patch.

An individual can only win one prize. Only members whose scores are eligible for the club competition (i.e., meet the 175 mile radius criteria) as defined in the contest rules can win a gift card or a trophy. These rules are available at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>. All CDXA

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members are eligible for the CDXA certificate and patch.

The ARRL has added new categories for the contest this year so you might want to think about your entry category. There will be separate categories for Single Operator Assisted High Power, Single Operator Assisted Low Power, Multioperator Single Transmitter High Power, and Multioperator Single Transmitter Low Power. You can find more details on this development at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>.

Twenty and Ten Years Ago. . . .

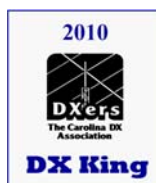
(Facts in this column are extracted from archived copies of The Pileup, available on the CDXA website. —The Editor)

Twenty Years Ago:

During October to December 1990, an average of 13.6 CDXA members checked into the regular Wednesday night DX net conducted by Uncle Henry (N4UH), and N4ZC made every one of the sessions! Recognition of the beginning of Operation Desert Storm was highlighted with a wish from the editor of the Pileup that it be a short-lived operation. . . . Editor Bill Taylor noted that Packet-Cluster was beginning to take off with as many as 37 users signed in. . . . Rich (K2RW) of the New Jersey DX Association provided an informative tutorial of how to set TNC parameters to ensure improved performance of the Packet-Cluster spotting network (oh, remember those days). . . . Roger Burt (N4ZC) and Ron Bailey (AA4S) showed us their skill in contest operations with scores of 1,837,056 and 1,415,610, respectively, in the then recently completed ARRL 10 meter Contest. . . . During the recently completed CQWW CW Contest, Roger Burt (N4ZC) had struggled a bit to learn the recently released CT software written by K1EA. (Remember CT?)

Ten Years Ago:

Bill Turner was just taking over the reins of CDXA from President from Bob Burton. . . . The beginnings of CWAC showed up in the CQWW contests of late 2000 with an intraclub competition. Steve Sullivan and Bob Burton “duked it out” for leader of the SSB contest and Dave Ellis (WA8WV) took the CW contest going away. . . . International Reply Coupons (IRC) went up in price on January 7 from \$1.05 to \$1.75. (They’re \$2.10 today.) . . . The AA4ZZ VHF Contest team had just learned that it took 6th in the nation in the June ARRL VHF contest. . . . A younger group of CDXA members is depicted in photos of the Christmas Party at the Branding Iron held in December 2000!



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: The 2010 competition is over. Don’t forget to submit your entry to CQ no later than January 31. Instructions on how to do that are at:

<http://www.dxmarathon.com/Submissioninfo2010/index.htm>

To be eligible for DX King prizes you must also submit an official scoring sheet to to CQ via email to scores@dxmarathon.com.

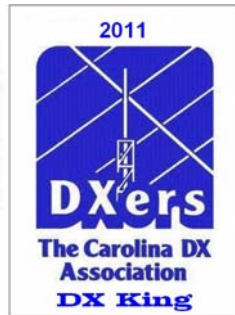
Item 2: The 2011 competition has started. See the announcement in this issue of the *Pileup*.

Item 3: Don’t forget you can get up to six country credits for working the Netherlands Antilles (PJs). They count for two countries prior to October 10 and four countries on October 10 and later. CQ has a new scoring sheet available at <http://dxmarathon.com/> reflecting these changes.

Item 4: These are the scores I have for the 2010 DX King competition as of December 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	274	40	314
W3GQ	Unlimited	264	40	304
W7DO	Unlimited	256	40	296
W4HG	Unlimited	255	40	295
K4YR	Unlimited	252	40	292
W3OA	Unlimited	249	40	289
N4PQX	Unlimited	245	40	285
K3XC*	Unlimited	209	40	249
N2TU	Unlimited	198	40	238
W4UFO	Unlimited	195	40	235
W3ZL	Formula	195	35	230
KZ2I	Unlimited	185	40	225
K8YC	Unlimited	180	36	216
K2SX*	Unlimited	152	37	189
K4ESE	Unlimited	149	34	183
W3NC	Unlimited	147	34	181
W4HLD	Unlimited	145	34	179
K1MIJ	Unlimited	144	35	179
K4DXA	Unlimited	130	36	166
N4QVM	Unlimited	126	30	156
W4WNT	Formula	121	27	148
NK0S*	Formula	118	29	147

* New this Month



Announcing CDXA's 2011 "DX King" Competition

By Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA will run its "DX King" Competition again this year. The main difference from last year will be in the prizes raffled off among the participants. For the 2011 competition we will raffle off a 26 inch LCD flat panel television.

The goal of DX Marathon is to "work as many countries and zones as possible at least once during the calendar year." This can be inside or outside other contests. Here are some of the main features of the DX Marathon rules:

- o Your score is number of CQ countries worked plus number of zones worked during the year, e.g. 347 countries (see <http://dxmarathon.com/countrieslist/cqwwlist.doc>); 40 zones.
- o There are two entry categories (the full rules are much more specific in defining these categories):
 - Unlimited—anything legal.
 - Formula—10 watts and single tower or 100 watts with verticals and/or wires.
- o QSLs are not needed.
- o Use of Packet Cluster spots is permitted. No other assistance is allowed in the Formula category.
- o CQ provides an Excel spreadsheet for score submission at <http://dxmarathon.com/>
- o Submit your scores to CQ by January 31, 2011; the results will be in the June CQ Magazine.
- o The full rules are at http://www.dxmarathon.com/ContestRules2011/2011_cq_dx_marathon_contest_rules.pdf.

You should study these before you start making contacts as there are many important points not mentioned here. CQ does say that there are no changes from last year.

Here are the rules specific to our DX King Competition:

- o There are two traveling first place plaques, one for the Unlimited category and one for the Formula category.
 - A member cannot win the same plaque two years in a row.
- o Certificates will be awarded for the top five scores in the Unlimited and Formula categories.
- o For 2011, there will be a 26 inch LCD flat panel television awarded by a raffle among entrants scoring 150 or more points.
- o Final standings will be determined by the DX Marathon scores published in CQ.
- o Any tie score will be resolved in favor of the member who first submitted that score to the Contest Manager.
- o Members must score 150 points or greater to win a plaque.
- o After reaching a score of 100, members are expected to report their current score monthly to the Contest Manager.
- o Scores will be published throughout the year in the Pileup.

There are many tools available to help you keep track of your Marathon Progress. Several were discussed in previous issues of the Pileup. See <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0810.pdf>, <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0901.pdf>, and <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0902.pdf>.

A lot of our members enjoyed this competition in 2009 and 2010 and we are hoping more will participate in 2011. Score keeping is relatively simple and can be almost automatic. And it's another reason to get a large number of QSOs in this year's DX contests in addition to working a lot of DX throughout the year.

2010 Christmas Party Revisited

CDXA's 2010 Christmas party provided a good dose of camaraderie for those attended. As usual, we had people from the four points of the compass in attendance. Stan Dicks (W4AG) and his XYL Janet probably ventured farthest from their home near Raleigh to attend this year's event. As luck would have it, Stan was a winner of one of two very nice jackets presented as door prizes by ARRL. (See photo below.)



The other lucky winner was Cecil Sullivan. Cecil is pictured below opening her prize.



After a social hour and dinner, election of officers quickly was dispensed with, and Dick Williams was able to present awards for CDXA's Contest Within a Contest (CWAC). To the right, above, is Steve Sullivan accepting one of the awards.



Dick Williams also handed out his handy contest calendar for 2011. The calendar is printed on a business card so NOBODY forgets which weekends have radio contests!! Pictured below is Dick reminding all to put the contests on their home calendars.



Pictured on page 10 are a number of additional scenes from the Christmas Party. Enjoy.

Helpful Home Remedy

You only need two tools in life—WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.



Hilda Dietrich, Barb Scott, and Lou Dietrich toast to the upcoming Christmas season.



Above, VHF Aficionados Ric Porter, Joe Barkley, Thomas Wright, and Bill Fisher did NOT talk solely about EME contacts during dinner! Below, Ken Cannaday, Ken Winston and spouse, and Bob Southworth comply with the photographer's request for their best holiday smiles. Bottom, Marc Tarplee, Robert Bacharach, and Morgan Williams (KB4GFJ) chat with tablemates.



Above, Eric Webner, Steve Vaughan, and Mrs. Vaughan await the awards presentation. Below, Bill Turner, Tim O'Rourke, and Chris Price and spouses get to know each other.



The Back Page

CDXA makes a Splash in the **2010 Ten Meter Contest**. Thanks to all who participated. See Page 1.

A new face appears in the **CDXA Officer lineup** for 2011. See Page 2.

“It’s a Wrap.” Contest Manager Dick Williams ties the strings on **CWAC 2010** and gives a full lineup of the winners. See Page 3.

Save the **Contest Calendar** on Page 5 so you keep your weekends free in 2011 for the big contests.

ARRL’s International DX Contest is coming in February and March. Prizes await the deserving. See Page 6.

Who is the potential **DX King of CDXA for 2010**? We won’t know for sure until the official announcement is made by CQ Magazine’s DX Marathon contest committee, but you can get an idea of who will be CDXA’s King by viewing the wrap-up on Page 7.

Ready, set, go! It’s 2011 and the **DX King 2011** competition is already under way. More prizes are lined up for the new year. This is a great year-long effort that can be very rewarding as well as eye opening as regards the number of DX entities and zones you can work in a year. Check out the details on Page 8.

The **2010 Christmas Party and Annual Meeting** was its usual festive event. Pictures on Pages 9 and 10.

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